

AMENDMENTS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-56 (Cancelled)

1 57. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide encoding the protein, wherein the polynucleotide has having at least one of the following properties:

- a) it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or
- b) it hybridizes at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10; wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF is expressed.

2 58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

3 59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

4 60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

5 61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.

7 63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.

8 64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.

9 65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.

10 66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.

11 67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.

12 68. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.

13 69. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.

14 70. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC

containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.

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71. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC~~ **containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.

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72. (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC~~ **containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.

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73. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC~~ **containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.

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74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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79. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 21, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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80. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.